

REMARKS

I. SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong (USPAP 20030090457) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,888,648 (Takeuchi). Applicant traverses these rejections.

II. APPLICANT'S RESPONSE

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

The Examiner identifies the visual display device 16 built into the inside of display cover 14 in Hong as the claimed first section of claim 1. The Examiner points to the "storage housing 12" as the second section. The Examiner, however, points to elements in the storage housing section (the identified second section) as meeting the limitation of the claim "wherein the first section further comprises a microprocessor and a memory coupled to the microprocessor."

The Examiner is correct that Hong makes no disclosure regarding incorporation of a scanner. The Examiner cites to Takeuchi in an attempt to overcome this deficiency of Hong.

The Examiner is incorrect in stating that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hong in view of Takeuchi. Hong and Takeuchi serve different purposes and would not be combined. Hong concerns the physical storage of "a plurality of removable digital memory storage devices" media such as diskettes or CD-ROMs. Hong is simply a box with a built in viewer so the owner can select a diskette or CD-ROM from the box's internal cavity, insert it into the reader and view the images stored thereon. Takeuchi on the other hand, is an appliance-like device concerned with the assimilation and electronic storage of digital photographic information in internal memory. Hong's disclosure of accumulation and storage of removable digital memory storage devices such as CD's teaches away from a combination with Takeuchi.

Hong does not disclose internal memory or download of images to "removable digital memory storage devices." Hong also does not contemplate acquisition of images from paper copies. There would be no purpose to adding scanning capability to such a device. Hong is "a container for the

collective, library storage of memory storage devices which also is configured to be used to view the digital images stored on the memory devices." Hong ¶ 0008 lines 1-4. Takeuchi, on the other hand, seeks to "electrically [read] image information from various image recording media, adding index information thereto, and sequentially recording the image information with index into a large capacity image file." Takeuchi at 1:64-68. Takeuchi centrally imports, indexes and stores electronic image information, whereas Hong physically holds and organizes storage media containing images. These references approach different problems, teach disparate solutions and would not be combined.

Moreover, Takeuchi does not overcome the deficiencies of Hong. For example, the microprocessor and any memory of Takeuchi is incorporated into the main body of the device disclosed in Takeuchi, not the section with flat display 9.

Therefore, even if the teachings of Hong and Takeuchi were combined, those teachings would not include all of the features of applicant's invention. The references, taken together, do not disclose a digital album having a first section with a display frame, microprocessor and memory, and a second section with a housing having a scanner in that housing.

Claims 2-9

For the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, dependent claims 2-9 are similarly patentable over the Examiner's cited combination. Applicant further responds as follows.

The Examiner rejects Claim 2 for the reasoning expressed in Claim 1 and because of the Examiner's understanding that Hong teaches a first and second section that are "configured to be detachable from one another." The Examiner's identified first and second sections, in addition to not meeting the limitations of Claim 1, remain coupled at all times regardless of whether display 16 is in the opened or closed state as seen in figures 1 and 2 of Hong. "The display cover 14 is hingedly coupled to the storage housing 12 at hinge 15." Hong at ¶ 0027, lines 3-5.

At least one embodiment of applicant's invention in contrast contemplates that the claimed first and second sections may be detachable such that at the action of the user the first section can be removed from all physical contact with the second section. See e.g., figure 21 and ¶ 0147.

With respect to claims 6 and 7, the removable storage devices 20 are not disclosed to be hard drives and, in any

event, the Examiner has not identified "a removable hard drive configured to be selectively engaged with the first section."

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner has not identified "a removable CD/DVD/RW drive configured to be selectively engaged with the first section." Electronic processing device 30 is not disclosed to have writing capability. Even if electronic processing device 30 is assumed to be a CD/DVD/RW drive, the identified electronic processing device is not in the identified first section and is not disclosed to be removable.

Claim 10

Applicant has amended claim 10 to recite that the screen is disposed on the outer surface of the first section. Such a screen configuration is described in the specification (e.g., paragraph 0115) and illustrated in the figures (e.g., FIG 15A-20B). This configuration is not disclosed in either Hong or Takeuchi.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 10, the Examiner correctly observes that Hong does not disclose a scanner within a housing. The Examiner cites to Takeuchi to overcome this deficiency of Hong. For the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Hong to include the claimed scanner in view of Takeuchi.

Claims 11-18

For the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 10, dependent claims 11-18 are patentable over the Examiner's cited art. Applicant further responds as follows.

With respect to claim 13, the Examiner identifies electronic processing device 30 as a microprocessor which inherently provides a hard drive. Item 30 is not described as a microprocessor but rather as an "electronic processing device . . . to receive the removable memory storage devices 20 and process and display the digital images contained on the storage devices on the visual display device 16." ¶ 0029 lines 1-6. The electronic processing device 30 is apparently a reader such as a floppy disk drive, CD player or memory card reader. ¶ 0028 lines 3-7. There is no disclosure that electronic processing device 30 is or inherently includes a hard drive.

With respect to claim 14, the Examiner points to hinge 15 of Hong as a "support member." Hinge 15 is not a support member within the meaning of Claim 14. This is clear

from the specification which describes that support stand 490 is coupled to the second section 441 and may be so coupled by a hinge mechanism. See ¶ 0126. The Examiner identifies a hinge but does not identify a support member such as support stand 490 of applicant's Fig. 17A. Moreover, hinge 15 of Hong at most allows the display cover 14 to be oriented for upright viewing. The support member of the present claimed invention allows "upright viewing of the digital album," not just a display.

With respect to claim 15, the identified hinge 15 is not detachable from the second section. Rather hinge 15 is coupled to the display cover 14 and storage housing 12 of Hong.

With respect to claims 17 and 18, Hong further does not disclose the ability to upload or download data. The removable storage devices 20 are "floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, DVDs, memory flash cards, etc." ¶ 0028 lines 3-7. There is no disclosure that the apparatus in Hong can do anything more than display digital images on previously configured removable storage devices. Hong does not disclose memory for upload or storage of data within the electronics of the storage container itself or the ability to put such information onto a removable storage device inserted into the processing device 30. Hong is "a container for the collective, library storage of memory

storage devices which also is configured to be used to view the digital images stored on the memory devices." Hong ¶ 0008 lines 1-4. (*Emphasis added*).

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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